



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 13, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Conceptual Design Of Lower Sycamore Creek Drainage Improvements

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with Penfield & Smith (P&S) in the amount of \$43,200 for conceptual design of Lower Sycamore Creek Drainage Improvements, and approve expenditures of up to \$4,320 for extra services of P&S that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

The City has an ongoing program to improve its drainage system. Historically, the area along Sycamore Creek, just upstream of the Highway 101 Bridge, has flooded during major storms. The reason for this flooding is that the Highway 101 Bridge is too small to convey the major storms. In 2003, P&S completed a flood capacity master plan study of Sycamore Creek. Based on that study, Caltrans started constructing a replacement bridge that could approximately triple the capacity of the bridge in order to convey water in Sycamore Creek. The City wants to widen Sycamore Creek, upstream of the new bridge, in order to take advantage of this new capacity. These improvements will reduce neighborhood flooding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The focus of this proposed conceptual design work is for drainage improvements to widen the section of Sycamore Creek from Highway 101 to Punta Gorda Street in coordination with Caltrans' widening their bridge. Staff also recommends having the proposed conceptual design encompass the area from Indio Muerto Street to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge, to use as a basis to plan for future projects. For instance, the study could be used to show UPRR that it needs to enlarge drainage conveyance capacity of its bridge. The work can also act as a basis to apply for grant funds to widen other parts of Sycamore Creek in the study area.

In performing this study, P&S will examine alternative solutions and develop the best ones to serve the City's needs. The facts contained in the study will determine what right of way the City needs to acquire and clear in order to widen Sycamore Creek. The study will also serve as a basis for final design of the project to widen Sycamore Creek from the Highway 101 Bridge to Punta Gorda Street.

DESIGN PHASE CONSULTANT ENGINEERING SERVICES

Staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with P&S in the amount of \$43,200, plus \$4,320, for a total of \$47,520 for design of the Sycamore Creek widening from Indio Muerto Street to the UPRR Bridge. P&S is one of the participants in the City's Pre-qualified Engineering Services Program and is experienced in this type of work.

FUNDING

There are sufficient funds in the Streets Capital Drainage Improvement Fund to cover the cost of the P&S design contract. City staff plans to apply for a grant to fund construction. The City may have property acquisition and relocation costs; however, these potential costs will not be known until the P&S study is completed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This study will serve as a basis for projects that will reduce the periodic flood damage to housing and property in the vicinity.

ATTACHMENT:	Sycamore Creek Vicinity Map
PREPARED BY:	Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer/Hal Hill/sk
SUBMITTED BY:	Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director
APPROVED BY:	City Administrator's Office

VICINITY MAP

SCALE: 1"=150'

ATTACHMENT

